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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Shoichiro FUJIWARA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1743

Application No.: 09/966,079

Examiner: J. Snay

Filed: October 1, 2001

Docket No.: 110730

For: SENSOR MATERIAL, SENSOR AND DETECTION METHOD FOR BIO-SUBSTANCE

APPLICANTS' SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

On January 22, 2004, a personal interview was held with Examiner Snay and Applicants' representative, David Cho.

Applicants wish to express there appreciation to Examiner Snay for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative at the interview.

The purpose of the interview was to discuss the Office Action mailed September 29, 2003 and the Amendment filed on December 29, 2003 in response thereto. The primary emphasis of the discussion was directed to independent claim 1.

In particular, Asher and Akishi, fail to disclose or suggest a sensor material comprising at least a stimulus-responsive high polymer gel, a bio-substance-responsive material and a colored pigment, as recited in claim 1.

With regards to Asher, Applicants argued that Asher discloses changing the lattice spacing to change the light diffraction properties of the CCA, whereas Applicants' claimed

invention discloses a polymer gel capable of exchanging gel capable of changing value by an external stimulus and a colored pigment contained therein. However, the Examiner stated that the CCA in Asher may constitute a colored pigment. Applicants then argued that the CCA in Asher cannot be considered a colored pigment in light of the specification. In particular, Applicant argued that colored pigment is interpreted as a substance in the visible light spectrum, whereas Asher relates to polymized CCA detectors whose diffraction wavelength change in response to a variety of specific stimuli. Thus, the Examiner stated that he will consider Applicants' arguments and indicated that an updated search will be conducted.

With regard to Akishi, the Examiner stated that the 132 Declaration appeared to overcome the rejection of Akishi. However, the Examiner required Applicants to clarify the Declaration. In particular, the Examiner stated that the 132 Declaration should state that Mr. Akishi is the sole inventor of the common subject matter. Thus, Applicants agree to provide the Examiner with a substitute Declaration if Mr. Akishi is determined to be the sole inventor.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
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David J. Cho
Registration No. 48,078

JAO:DXC/brc

Date: January 27, 2004

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